



# 2002 Annual Report

## Wisconsin's Small Business Environmental Council

### Who Are We?

- Small Business Environmental Council
- Began meeting in 1994
- One of three components of the Small Business Clean Air Assistance Program administered by Department of Commerce
- Authorized under s. 507 of the Clean Air Act Amendments and implemented under s. 560.11, Wisconsin Statutes
- Nine members appointed for three year terms by either the majority and minority leaders of State Assembly and Senate, the Governor, and the Secretary of Commerce and DNR
- Members represent small business owners and the public

### How Are We Funded?

- Program receives no federal funding
- Supported by state air permit fees for expenses

### What Are Our Responsibilities?

- Meet regularly to discuss environmental issues affecting small businesses in Wisconsin
- Review and comment on the effectiveness of information and assistance provided to small business by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
- Comment on whether information is understandable to laypersons
- Review new regulations to see if they meet the Regulatory Paperwork Reduction Act criteria
- Convey difficulties encountered by small businesses trying to comply with regulations

Smaller businesses never before regulated by state or federal agencies were impacted by the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. Steps have been taken to address the concerns of small businesses as regulations are created, promulgated and enforced.

The Wisconsin Small Business Environmental Council, a component of the state's Small Business Clean Air Assistance Program, provides a chance for small business owners to speak out. Appointed by the Governor, State Assembly and Senate, council members comment on the fairness and effectiveness of WDNR and EPA regulations pertaining to small businesses.

The Small Business Environmental Council provides a forum for rule makers to gain information on the impact rules have on smaller businesses. Many groups have come to value the opinions of the Council.

### 2002 HIGHLIGHTS:

#### Regulatory Input

The council continued to support the legislation on Green Tier in 2002, as it was proposed in AB479 sub-amendment 1. The Green Tier program and Self-Audit Immunity element included in the legislation will be very important for small businesses.

A Regulatory Reform Task Force was created by the Governor in 2002, to which 12 members were appointed including a member of the Council. The Task Force compiled nearly 100 regulatory concerns for small businesses into 11 broad recommendations to the Governor on how Wisconsin should reform its regulatory climate. The council wrote a letter to the Governor commending him for creating the Regulatory Reform Task Force. A Council's Corner article was included in the Small Business Advisor newsletter to both outline the recommendations from the Regulatory Reform Task Force and ask that fellow small business owners discuss the recommendations with their legislators.

#### Business Concerns

Many small businesses and municipalities have received free education on recycling programs through the UW Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center. Budget cuts proposed in 2001 eliminated the funding to UW Extension to provide such assistance. When the positions were reinstated in 2002 budget proposals, the Council wrote a letter to the Governor in support of that decision and to encourage him to keep them in the final budget.

A council member testified at a Regulatory Fairness hearing with the U.S. Small Business Administration Ombudsman, held on July 8, 2002. The council member was prepared to present issues regarding USEPA activities but since the agency did not have a representative at the hearing he just expressed concern regarding the lack of attendance by a number of federal agencies as well as the lack of preparation by agencies that did attend. The federal agencies were informed in advance of the topics for which businesses intended to provide testimony and yet those representatives that did attend were not aware of the situations or able to provide a response to the business. The council as a whole followed up by sending a letter to the US SBA Ombudsman on this issue.

## Our Membership:

Council members want to assist other small businesses by acting as mentors. Based on their different experiences in dealing with environmental regulations, they can offer advice or refer a business to resources to help them find their way.

Bob Nicholson  
Council Chair  
Member of National Compliance Advisory Panel  
Appointed by Governor  
US Filter/Zimpro Environmental, Inc. - Retired  
Environmental Consultant  
Waunakee, WI  
608-850-6311  
jbohnick@aol.com

Michael Simpson  
Council Vice-chair  
Appointed by Governor  
Reinhart, Boerner, Van Deuren, S.C.  
Environmental Attorney  
Milwaukee, WI  
414-298-8124  
msimpson@reinhardtllaw.com

Carl Komassa  
Appointed by Senate Minority Leader  
Printing, flexible packaging, folding cartons,  
quality systems  
Milwaukee, WI  
414/272-0064  
ctkomassa@wi.rr.com

Jay Meili  
Appointed by Speaker of the Assembly  
Molded Dimensions, Inc.  
Technical Consultant for (and previous owner  
of) a small polyurethane and molding company  
Port Washington, WI  
262-284-9455  
jmeili@moldeddimensions.com

Pete Van Horn, P.E.  
Appointed by Governor  
Van Horn Construction  
President/Owner – Commercial/Industrial  
Construction Company  
Pewaukee, WI  
262-691-1000

Hampton Rothwell  
Appointed by Secretary of Commerce  
Deputy Administrator - Division of  
Marketing, Advocacy & Technology  
Development  
Department of Commerce  
P.O. Box 7970 – 6th floor  
Madison, WI 53707-7970  
608-267-0313  
hrothwell@commerce.state.wi.us

Patricia Haskin  
Appointed by Assembly Minority Leader  
Tomahawk Monument Company  
Owner, Cemetery memorial and other misc.  
granite products company  
Tomahawk, WI  
715-453-6523  
whaskin@gotousa.net

Jim Reynolds  
Appointed by Senate Minority Leader  
Cast Tools, Inc.  
Company President and Foundry Trade  
Association Representative  
Racine, WI  
262-633-6383  
casttool@execpc.com

Mark McDermid  
Appointed by Secretary of WDNR  
Director - Bureau of Cooperative Environmental  
Assistance  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 7921 – CO/8  
Madison, WI 53707-7921  
608-267-3125  
mcderm@dnr.state.wi.us

## EVERY PROGRAM A PARTNERSHIP

**Each Small Business Assistance Program is comprised of three parts:**

- A technical assistance component to provide the detailed help that small businesses need.
- An ombudsman to advocate on behalf of small businesses within the regulatory environment.
- A Compliance Assistance Panel made up of small business owners and representatives to consult and advise on program content.

**Other WI programs with which we build working partnerships include:**

- Trade Associations
- UW Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education
- Small Business Development Centers
- Other state and local agencies

Members reach out to other business organizations to share information about environmental programs and services.

The council has at its disposal new tools to reach a wider audience that needs to hear about the types of regulatory assistance available to small businesses in Wisconsin. Council members can disseminate an Environmental Information Packet upon request, which includes fact sheets and contact information that is very useful to new businesses unsure of their regulatory obligations. A press release is under construction that will help council members provide information to local media outlets and reach new or existing businesses that require assistance in their area.

**Find out what is going on with the WI Small Business Environmental Council by visiting [www.wienvirohelp.com](http://www.wienvirohelp.com), contacting [CleanAir@commerce.state.wi.us](mailto:CleanAir@commerce.state.wi.us) or calling 1-800-HELP BUSINESS (1-800-435-7287).**